

**Testimony of Kia D. Floyd
Assistant Counsel, Labor & Employment
Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA)**

**Before the Committee on Labor and Public Employees
Hartford, CT
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S.B. 308 AAC The Protection of Child Actors (Support)

Good Afternoon Senator Prague, Representative Ryan and other members of the Committee. My name is Kia Floyd and I am an Assistant Counsel for Labor & Employment matters for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents more than 10,000 companies throughout the state of Connecticut, ranging from large corporations to small businesses. The vast majority of our companies employ fifty (50) or fewer employees, many of whom make up Connecticut's workforce. I am here today to speak on behalf of all of our member companies. CBIA generally supports any labor and employment related legislation that does not increase the costs of doing business in the state or unreasonably increase administrative burdens on employers in dealing with employment and workplace issues. We believe that **S.B. 308** could be such a measure, therefore we generally support its legislative intent and purpose.

S.B. 308 seeks to protect children in the entertainment industry from child labor abuses by requiring those who employ children in the industry to provide the children with tutors as appropriate and in compliance with state truancy laws. The stated purpose of this proposal is a laudable one, in that it may ensure that child actors who do not regularly attend school are educated. Similar legislation has been enacted in states such as California and New York with higher numbers of child actors. CBIA does not have exact figures on the number of child actors in the State of Connecticut who do not attend school regularly, therefore we cannot assess the full impact that this legislation may have on the employer community. However, inasmuch as the legislative intent and purpose of this bill may further the public interest in providing all children with access to education and protects them from harsh working conditions in the entertainment industry, we generally support the legislative intent and purpose of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment today.